

Yet, despite all these signs, the administration and the House and Senate budget negotiators continue to give U.S. energy security the lowest priority. Last week, a witness testifying before the Senate Armed Services Committee stated that " * * * our national energy policy seems to be based, largely, on the policy of prayer." While I don't believe that it is true yet, this country certainly seems headed in that direction.

In the 1970's energy crisis became a term every American understood. In the years after the Arab oil embargo this Nation took several steps to increase our energy security. We created and filled a strategic petroleum reserve, we encouraged environmentally benign development of domestic energy resources, we encouraged fuel diversification and greater use of alternative fuels, we encouraged research and development of renewable energy resources, and we encouraged conservation and energy efficiency in all areas.

However, in recent years we seem to have forgotten the lessons we learned from the gas lines and energy shortages of the 1970's. Our current policies discourage development of domestic energy resources. We have placed large tracts of oil and gas bearing lands off-limits to exploration and development. We have to fight vigorously every year to keep renewable energy research budgets from being slashed.

And now we are selling oil from our strategic petroleum reserve just as fast as we can. Clearly, there are those who have forgotten that the SPR is America's first line of defense from those who would hold us hostage through our high level of dependence on imported oil. These oil sales are occurring not because of any energy shortage, but because the administration and the appropriators see an opportunity to use this oil reserve as a cash reserve.

However, when the reserve is used in this manner everyone loses. The American people paid over \$200 billion to build and fill the strategic petroleum reserve. It costs approximately \$35 to buy and store a barrel of oil in the reserve. When oil was sold from the reserve last year to help balance the budget, the Department of Energy received approximately \$18 a barrel. It doesn't take an economics professor to tell you that you can't balance the budget by buying high and selling low.

In addition, when oil is sold from the reserve in a nonemergency situation it gives those who want to intervene in free markets, including our President, the ability to do so. This past April, even though there was no oil shortage, the President announced he would use authority he had to draw down the reserve in order to lower rising gasoline prices. Again, think to the 1970's if you have doubts about whether the Government should intervene in the free marketplace. I fully expect the President to use the authority we are granting him today to intervene in the marketplace again this winter.

Finally, when we sell the strategic petroleum reserve during anything less than an energy emergency the American people aren't just losing money, they are losing something more important: their energy security. At the rate we are selling oil from the reserve, in 2015 when the U.S. depends on foreign suppliers for as much as 68 percent of its daily oil consumption we will have less than 100 million barrels of oil left in the reserve. That scares me and I hope it scares everyone else.

America needs to pay more attention to securing its energy future. And we need to begin by stopping the fire sale being conducted at our Nation energy security reserve. If we don't stop these trends, the term "energy crisis" will again be part of the vocabulary of every American.

SUPPORT H.R. 4264

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 28, 1996

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4264, a bill which marks an important step forward in our national effort to combat diabetes. The provisions of H.R. 4264 are identical to the provisions of two separate diabetes bills I have cosponsored this session, H.R. 1073 and H.R. 1074. These bills will for the first time provide Medicare reimbursement for outpatient self-management training for individuals with diabetes. They will also for the first time provide Medicare coverage for the blood-testing strips that diabetics use to monitor their blood sugar levels. The Congressional Caucus on Diabetes—of which I am a member, led by Representative ELIZABETH FURSE (D-OR), has worked hard throughout this session to get these bills passed, and I am glad that H.R. 4264 provides us with the vehicle to achieve this goal.

Diabetes is a particular problem for older Americans. Over 16 percent of Americans over the age of 65 have the disease, and over one quarter of the entire Medicare budget is spent caring for diabetic seniors. With coverage of self-management training and blood-testing strips under Medicare, Congress has recognized that efforts to combat diabetes must not focus solely on treatment of serious illness but also on education and self-management which can prevent serious illness. This preventive emphasis is not only cost-effective, but will result in greatly reduced human suffering.

Medical research has shown us that many of the most serious complications stemming from diabetes can be controlled through proper management by those who have the condition. According to Practical Diabetology, 90 percent of diabetes-related blindness is preventable, and 50 percent of diabetes-related amputations and hospitalizations are preventable. With coverage of self-management training and blood-testing strips, many more diabetic seniors will be able to head off these serious, and sometimes life-threatening, complications which can result from unbalanced blood sugar levels.

Mr. Speaker, I hope consideration and passage of H.R. 4264 indicates a renewed sense of urgency in Congress about combating diabetes. An area to which we must direct this sense of urgency in the coming months is the epidemic of diabetes among native Americans. Whether by granting the Indian Health Service [IHS] third-party reimbursement authority or by preserving IHS diabetes-control efforts as the agency downsizes and restructures, we must elevate our commitment to reducing the tragic incidence of diabetes among our native American population. Mr. Speaker, I urge by colleagues to support H.R. 4264 as the first im-

portant step in a renewed national effort to combat diabetes.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMEN ANDY JACOBS AND JOHN MYERS

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 28, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the careers of two outstanding Members of Congress who are retiring this year: ANDY JACOBS and JOHN MYERS.

I have known ANDY and JOHN for many years, and have always had the highest regard for them. They are a true credit to this institution. Congress will miss them. The State of Indiana will miss them. And I will miss them.

It has been a great pleasure working with them over the years. They are individuals of remarkable integrity, dedication, and professionalism. They have, of course, had a tremendous impact on our great State and its people, as well as the citizens of this country.

ANDY and JOHN, will also be missed for the personal qualities they brought to their work. In national politics and in Congress we have seen a clear decline in basic civility. There have been far too many personal attacks and shouting matches, too much partisanship, and meanness.

ANDY and JOHN, in contrast, have long been models of civility and decency. They certainly have their views on issues, and have never been afraid to voice them. But they always have respected those with whom they have disagreed, and worked tirelessly to build consensus on some of our most difficult challenges. We can all learn from their example.

Their work has certainly been a mark of distinction. ANDY and JOHN have every right to look back on their service with a full measure of satisfaction. I have enjoyed greatly my association with them. They have been wonderful colleagues, and good friends.

I wish both ANDY and JOHN—and their families—all the best in their retirement.

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN LECRON

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 28, 1996

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the retirement of a dedicated community leader in our district, Susan LeCron. She is retiring after 20 years of service to the Toledo Botanical Gardens. Under her leadership as executive director, the Toledo Botanical Gardens has truly flourished. Her able hand has guided the gardens from 20 acres and a groundskeeper to a 60-acre nationally designated botanical garden, a staff of more than 30, and a budget which is 20 times greater than at the beginning of her tenure.

Although she is proudest of the gardens' children's programs, Susan's leadership has